RESPECT

Resources and Education Supporting People Everywhere Controlling Tobacco

Smoke-Free Communities Are Good For Health AND Good For Business

~~January 20, 2006~~

XC: Board Members 06-1-4
Chairman CEW 1/26/05
TJ MHS
KT Legal (AM/KO) SSD

Clerk of the Board
Air Resources Board
1001 I Street, 23rd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: ENVIRONMENTAL TOBACCO SMOKE

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of RESPECT-Resources and Education Supporting People Everywhere Controlling Tobacco-California's Low Socio-Economic Priority Population Partnership urging the Air Resources Board adopt the proposed identification of Environmental Tobacco Smoke as a Toxic Air Contaminant (TAC).

Secondhand smoke is especially harmful to young children. EPA estimates that secondhand smoke is responsible for between 150,000 and 300,000 lower respiratory tract infections in infants and children under 18 months of age annually, resulting in between 7,500 and 15,000 hospitalizations each year.

The hazardous health effects of exposure to second-hand smoke are now well-documented and established in various independent research studies and numerous national and international reports. The body of scientific evidence is overwhelming: there is no doubt within the scientific community that second-hand smoke causes heart disease, lung cancer, nasal sinus cancer, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), asthma and middle ear infections in children and various other respiratory illnesses. Second-hand smoke exposure is also causally associated with stroke, low birth weight, spontaneous abortion, negative effects on the development of cognition and behavior, exacerbation of cystic fibrosis and cervical cancer. We know secondhand smoke causes or exacerbates a wide range of adverse health effects, including cancer, respiratory infections, and asthma. Secondhand smoke contains over 4,000 chemicals; 200 are poisons; 43 cause cancer. Secondhand smoke has been classified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a known cause of cancer in humans (Group A carcinogen).

The dangers of Environmental Tobacco Smoke (ETS) cannot be ignored. Californian's must be protected and informed. The proposed action by the Air Resources Board would serve our state well.

Most sincerely,

Dian Kiser, Ph.D., Co-Director

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AIR RESOURCES BOARD
CLERK OF THE BOARD

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